

2025 Sharing Information on Progress **(SIP) Report**

The Open University Business
School

October 2025

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About the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME)

The Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) is a United Nations-supported initiative founded in 2007 that aims to raise the profile of sustainability in their classrooms through Seven Principles focused on serving society and safeguarding our planet.

PRME engages business and management schools to ensure they provide future leaders with the skills needed to balance economic and sustainability goals, while drawing attention to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and aligning academic institutions with the work of the UN Global Compact. Driven by its mission to transform management education, PRME equips today's business students with the understanding and ability to deliver change tomorrow. As a voluntary initiative with over 800 signatories worldwide, PRME has become the largest organized relationship between the United Nations and management-related higher education institutions.



“*The PRME initiative was launched to nurture responsible leaders of the future. Never has this task been more important. Bold leadership and innovative thinking are needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).*

Antonio Guterres

Secretary-General (2017 - Present)

United Nations

”

Principles of PRME



Purpose

We advance responsible management education to foster inclusive prosperity in a world of thriving ecosystems.



Values

We place organizational responsibility and accountability to society and the planet at the core of what we do.



Teach

We transform our learning environments by integrating responsible management concepts and practices into our curriculum and pedagogy.



Research

We study people, organizations, institutions, and the state of the world to inspire responsible management and education practice.



Partner

We engage people from business, government, civil society, and academia to advance responsible and accountable management education and practice.



Practice

We adopt responsible and accountable management principles in our own governance and operations.



Share

We share our successes and failures with each other to enable our collective learning and best live our common values and purpose.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

In September 2015, all 193 Member States of the United Nations adopted a plan for achieving a better future for all – laying out a path over the next 15 years to end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and protect our planet. At the heart of Agenda 2030 are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 related targets that address the most important economic, social, environmental and governance challenges of our time. The SDGs clearly define the world we want – applying to all nations and leaving no one behind. Successful implementation of the SDGs will require all players to champion this agenda; the role of higher education is critical to this.





Getting Started

This section provides foundational information about The Open University Business School, including key details and basic institutional data.

Mission

The Open University's institutional **mission** is to be open to people, places, methods and ideas. We promote educational opportunity and social justice by providing high-quality university education to all who wish to realise their ambitions and fulfil their potential.

Through academic research, pedagogic innovation and collaborative partnership we seek to be a world leader in the design, content and delivery of supported open learning

The Faculty of Business and Law's **mission** is providing world-class open education and research which empowers individuals, organisations and society to influence future global development and deliver just outcomes.

Values

In achieving our mission, we are committed to, and are guided by, the enduring Open University values of inclusivity, innovation and responsiveness

Inclusive

- We play a unique role in society, making higher education open to all
- We promote social justice through the development of knowledge and skills

Innovative

- We lead the learning revolution, placing innovation at the heart of our teaching and research
- We continuously seek new and better ways to inspire and enable learning
- We create world-class research and teaching

Responsive

- We respond to the needs of individuals and employers and the communities in which they live and work
- We are dedicated to supporting our students' learning success

Vision

The **vision** of the Open University is to reach more students with life-changing learning that meets their needs and enriches society.

The Faculty of Business and Law vision is to empower all professionals who strive to solve complex, critical problems by continuously learning, improving practice, supporting diversity, creating knowledge and innovating for responsible growth. Our global community will deliver social mobility and create a sustainable future.

Graduates & Enrollment

2024 Statistics	Number
Graduates	7462
Faculty & Staff at the University	10,037
Faculty & Staff at the Institution	857
Student Enrollment at the University	198,721
Student Enrollment at the Institution	34,215
Undergraduate Attendance	32,040
Masters-Level Postgraduate Attendance	2,175
Doctoral Student Attendance	70

Degrees Offered

Bachelor Programs

- ☐ Bachelor of Science (B.Sc. or B.S.)
- ☐ Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)
- ☒ Bachelor of Laws (LLB)

Masters Programs

- ☐ Master of Science (M.Sc. or M.S.)
- ☐ Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.)
- ☐ Master of Arts (M.A.)
- ☒ Master of Laws (LLM)

Doctoral Programs

- ☐ Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)



Purpose

We advance responsible management education to foster inclusive prosperity in a world of thriving ecosystems.

Definition of Purpose

The OU's mission is "to be open to people, places, methods and ideas". The OU is open to all and this absolute commitment to inclusivity is at the heart of everything the University does.



Values

We place organizational responsibility and accountability to society and the planet at the core of what we do.



Who Champions Responsible Management Education at Our Institution

- ❖ Centralized sustainability office
- ❖ Individual leader
- ❖ Research or issue group, society, or club leading sustainability efforts
- ❖ Disciplinary efforts within business school
- ❖ Interdisciplinary efforts across business school
- ❖ Interdisciplinary efforts across parent organization



Teach

We transform our learning environments by integrating responsible management concepts and practices into our curriculum and pedagogy.



Educator Recognition

At The Open University Business School, we recognize educators for quality of teaching in the following ways:

- ❖ Faculty promotion and tenure consideration
- ❖ Institutional recognition events
- ❖ Pedagogical innovation grants
- ❖ Professional development opportunities
- ❖ Publication or research support
- ❖ Advanced HE fellowships through central University scheme
- ❖ Business School support for Certified Management & Business Educator subscription through the Chartered Association of Business Schools

💡 Fostering Innovation



A lot

Our institution supports innovation significantly through teaching and learning.

💡 Experiential Learning



Somewhat

Teaching and learning at our institution moderately support experiential learning.

💡 Learning Mindset



To a great extent

Teaching and learning at our institution strongly promote a lifelong learning mindset.

💡 Method of Teaching and Learning



Virtually

Online learning through digital platforms and remote instruction.

Barriers to Innovative Curriculum

In 2024, The Open University Business School identified the following barriers to innovating, updating, or taking risks in existing curriculum:

- ❖ Assessment challenges
- ❖ Development of accessible content can increase production time and 'time to market' for curriculum, although this is an accepted barrier to produce accessible curriculum

Barriers to Innovative Pedagogy

In 2024, The Open University Business School identified the following barriers to innovating, updating, or taking risks in existing pedagogy:

- ❖ Assessment rigor concerns
- ❖ Digital divide
- ❖ Time constraints



Research

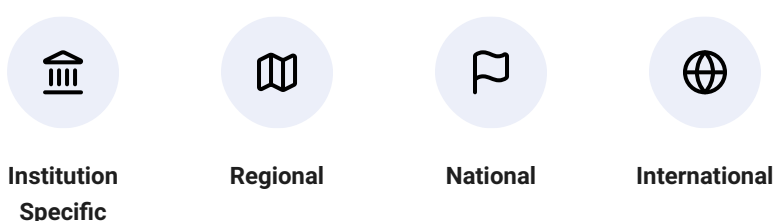
We study people, organizations, institutions, and the state of the world to inspire responsible management and education practice.

Research vs Research for RME/Sustainable Development



Research Funding

In 2024, The Open University Business School was awarded funding for research that is:



Socializing Research

In 2024, The Open University Business School contributed research findings to:

- ❖ Community organizations
- ❖ Government and policy makers
- ❖ Industry and business networks
- ❖ Local media
- ❖ Open-access platforms

Research Barriers

In 2024, The Open University Business School identified the following barriers to conducting research related to sustainability and/or responsibility:

- ❖ Time constraints
- ❖ Research impact and application
- ❖ Collaboration challenges



Partner

We engage people from business, government, civil society, and academia to advance responsible and accountable management education and practice.

Institutional Partnerships

- ❖ AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business)
- ❖ AMBA (Association of MBAs)
- ❖ EFMD (European Foundation for Management Development)

Student Organization Partnerships

- ❖ None



Practice

We adopt responsible and accountable management principles in our own governance and operations.

Institutional Policies and Practices

- ❖ Buildings/real estate
- ❖ Campus operations guides
- ❖ Climate action plan
- ❖ Employee equity, diversity, inclusion
- ❖ Curriculum guidelines
- ❖ Environmental stewardship policies
- ❖ Ethical data sourcing guides
- ❖ Ethical leadership or good governance policies
- ❖ Faculty hiring, tenure, and promotion guidelines
- ❖ Greenhouse gas emissions
- ❖ Open-access guides
- ❖ Professional training opportunities
- ❖ Responsible procurement policies
- ❖ Student equity, diversity, inclusion
- ❖ Sustainability strategy or strategic plan (school or university level)
- ❖ Travel guides
- ❖ Water
- ❖ Zero-waste guides

Practice Voices

The following statement from stakeholders at The Open University Business School demonstrates our commitment to sustainable and responsible practices.

OU brings environmental research to the rooftops

1. [Home](#)
2. OU brings environmental research to the rooftops

OU brings environmental research to the rooftops

Posted on 29 April 2025 • [Science](#), [Science, maths, computing and technology](#), [University news](#)

Work has commenced on The Open University's first green roof research installation, thanks to a collaboration between scientists and a Milton Keynes-based Living Roof contractor.

Living Roof Live Lab, located on top of the Stuart Hall office building at the OU's Walton Hall campus, features a vista of rectangular beds – known as rigs – containing different combinations of substrate and vegetation.

The project represents a significant stride towards sustainable urban development and is the result of Open Societal Challenges (OSC) funding through the Challenge Us! programme and a significant in-kind contribution from industry partners to establish the infrastructure.

Researchers at the OU's STEM faculty are collaborating with the Green Roof Organisation (GRO), its members, and local green roof specialists Bridgman & Bridgman, to turn a traditional flat rooftop into a state-of-the-art green roof research lab.

Contributing to research on the benefits of green roofing

Living Roof contractor Chris Bridgman and the OU's Dr Kadmiel Maseyk formed the collaboration.

The initial building blocks were put in place in early February and in April the seeds of the research were literally sown, as plug plants and seeds were planted. The rooftop rigs contain eight different combinations of substrates and vegetation, from crushed brick and limestone to sedum and wildflowers.

It's hoped that this initiative will contribute to crucial research on the ecological and urban benefits of green roofing technologies in the United Kingdom.

Project lead [Dr Kadmiel Maseyk](#), is an expert in environmental physiology and carbon cycle science. He explained:

"This is a really exciting development for the OU and I'm looking forward to seeing the platform take shape. As well as being a nice rooftop green space, it will provide insights into how green roofs can mitigate urban heat, reduce water runoff, enhance biodiversity, and improve energy efficiency in buildings."

"We need to look at the UK climate with respect to green roof performance, the data we have currently is largely based on North America and Europe, where vegetation and climate differs."

"Creating a green space on a rooftop is an ideal opportunity; it can keep a building warmer in winter and cooler in summer. They also cost very little in terms of what they are going to create, in terms of biodiversity."

Milton Keynes is in the top two for cities outside of London with the most amount of intensive green roofs (meaning rooftop gardens, designed for people and nature).

Chris Bridgman, managing partner and green roof specialist, said:

"These roofs are really important, for biodiversity and to help tackle climate change. In participating in this research project, we're representing not just ourselves but GRO, the UK green roof trade association."

"We've come together with the university to look at all the green roofs and actually capture some really meaningful data that can be used to lobby government and ensure that more rooftops are rolled out across the country and used efficiently for both people and nature."

"We'd love to see all flat roofs in MK, that can become green. It's a nature-based solution to the biodiversity crisis."

Dr Maseyk and team will work closely with OU's estates and sustainability teams to integrate findings into broader initiatives aimed at making the OU's campus a model of environmental stewardship.

The rooftop rigs contain eight different combinations of substrates and vegetation.

Designed for varied plant and substrate testing, the roof materials will be tested for durability, water retention, and their ability to reduce local temperatures.

Tracey Ho, Energy Manager, Estates said:

"The Living Roof Live Lab at Stuart Hall is a brilliant blend of education, research, and real-world sustainability in action. Green roofs are visually appealing and offer ecological and urban benefits to our campus. The fact that this project will generate UK-specific data is a huge plus."

"From an estates perspective, having local insights means better informed design in terms of plant species selection, insulation performance, water retention, heat mitigation and maintenance strategies, potentially influencing our future infrastructure policies and building designs."

This research will continue for the next four years. [You can read more about the research project here](#)



Share

We share our successes and failures with each other to enable our collective learning and best live our common values and purpose.



Engagement Opportunities

The Open University Business School offers transparent engagement opportunities for members of our institution and community to contribute to our sustainability and responsibility efforts in the following ways:

- ❖ Feedback mechanisms (e.g., surveys, suggestion boxes)
- ❖ Open faculty and student meetings and town halls
- ❖ Partnerships with local organizations
- ❖ Public events and panel discussions
- ❖ Sustainability-focused research and collaboration Opportunities

Communication Audiences

The Open University Business School communicates its policies and progress on sustainable development and responsibility with:

- ❖ Faculty and staff
- ❖ Alumni and donors
- ❖ Prospective and current students

Communication Barriers

The Open University Business School faces the following barriers in transparent communications:



**Bureaucratic
delays**



**Data privacy
regulations**



**Inconsistent
updates**



**Messaging
clarity**

SIGNATORY

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